writ petition filed by MPEB was dismissed. PSEB has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court of India after their writ petition was disposed of by the Hon'ble High Court.

(d) Coal companies are responsible for supply of correct quality and quantity of coal at the pit heads. This is also the point where the property in coal is transferred to the consumers or their transport agents. The quality and quantity of coal supplies have to be verified by the consumer at the point where he or his agent takes possession and any discrepancy regarding weigh and quality should be sorted out on that basis. The legal responsibility of the supplier ceases as soon as the property in goods is transferred to the consumer. This is also the position under the Sales of Goods Act.

Deduction of Dues Owed by the SEBs to Coal India Limited

3502. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of dues owed by the state Electricity Boards (SEBs) to Coal India Limited (CIL) as on date;

(b) whether Coal India Limited had proposed to the Planning Commission for the deduction of dues owed by the SEBs to Coal India Limited directly from the Central fund allocations to State;

(c) if so, what action the Planning Commission have taken on this proposal and what are the reasons in that behalf;

(d) in how many cases such deduction from the Central fund allocation have been allowed in the past and what are the details and reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is a possibility that the proposed World Bank loan of $ 500 million might be jeopardised unless urgent steps are taken to bring down the dues; and

(f) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) According to information furnished by Coal India Limited (CIL), as on 30.6.1994, the total amount of outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities on account of Coal supplies was Rs. 3215.39 crores of which Rs. 1842.44 crores was undisputed.

(b) and (c) CIL have suggested that their undisputed dues payable by State Electricity Boards (SEBs) could be daducted from Central Plan allocations of the respective States. However, the State Government have been opposing any such deductions.

(d) In the past, when coal sale dues from power sector had increased to a level of Rs. 1877 crores in 1990, Government of India had intervened. It was then decided that the undisputed dues of Rs. 1093.44 crores from SEBs as on 31.5.1990 would be recovered from Central Plan Assistance of the respective States. This recovery has been made in four equal annual instalments. The last instalment has been recovered during 1993-94. The recovery was as follows:—

Year	Amount (in crores)
1990-91	Rs. 273.39
1991-92	Rs. 273.35
1992-93	Rs. 273.36
1993-94	Rs. 273.34
Total	Rs. 1093.44

(e) Lending institutions make detailed assessment of credit worthiness of the intending borrowers before actual lending. Recovery of dues significatly affects the credit worthiness of the borrowing organisation.

(f) Following steps are being taken by CIL/Government to contain and

recover the outstanding dues of CIL from power utilities:

(i) Ministry of Coal has advised coal companies to supply coal to power houses only against advance payments or Letters of Credit

(ii) Ministry of Power and Ministry of Coal are holding periodical discussions with State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to clear outstanding dues of coal companies.

(iii) Coal Companies are also holding discussions with the SEBs to reconcile the outstanding dues and persuade them to make payments.

Trade with African Countries

3503. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that alongwith trade with South Africa, other landlocked frontline countries of the Continent like Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia will also offer markets for Indian goods; and

(b) if so, whether Government have explored this aspect of trade with South Africa and if so, the result of such exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With the lifting of trade embargo with South Africa and the steps being taken by the Government to boost exports to that country, India's trade with the landlocked frontline countries like Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia is already showing an upwards trend.

Import of Caustic Soda-Flakes/Solids/Lye

3504. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Caustic Soda-flakes/Solids/Lye are being imported; and

(b) if so, the quantity imported during the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 and Cost Interest Freight (CIF) rates per MT. thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In terms of the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, import of Caustic Soda Flakes-Solids/Lye is freely allowed.

(b) A statement indicating the import of Sodium hydronide (Caustic Soda), both quantity and value wise, during the 1992-93 and 1993-94 is enclosed (*see* below) cost interest freight (CIF) rates vary from consignment to consignment.

Statement

Qty. Tonnes
Value: Rs. lakhs

Description	1992-93		1993-9 (P)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1. Sodium Hydroxide (Caustic Soda) *Solid*				
(a) Flakes	923	130.12	4076	121.53
(b) Other than Flakes	2429	283.32	19529	757.33
2. Inaqueous solution (Soda lye or liquid soda)	61005	3052.50	89896	3677.22

P= Provisional Figures.
Source= DGCI&S, Calcutta.